

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
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DEPARTMENT PASS FASS/AIA: BRUSSELS, PARIS, LONDON, FRANKFURT FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, SP

SUBJECT: CIVAR - BRITISH AIRWAYS PILOT REPORTS NEAR-MISS OVER
BARCELONA AS SPANISH PREPARE TO TEST NEW FRANCH RADAR

1. SEVERAL WIDELY-VARYING ACCOUNTS HAVE APPEARED IN SPANISH PRESS
PAST FEW DAYS BASED ON APRIL 17 LONDON "SUNDAY TIMES" STORY OF
ALLEGED NEAR-MISS OF BRITISH AIRWAYS FLIGHT WITH TWO OTHER AIRCRAFT
WITHIN TEN MINUTES PERIODS APRIL 14 BARCELONA. ONE MADRID PAPER
SPECULATES THAT BRITISH MAY BE MOUNTING CAMPAIGN TO FRIGHTEN SPAIN-
BOUND TOURISTS INTO KEEPING THEIR POUND AT HOME. IN THIS
CONTEXT ARTICLE POINTS OUT THAT LITTLE WAS MADE IN BRITISH PRESS
OF REPORTED NEAR-MISS OF BRITISH AIRWAYS FLIGHT WITH US AIR FORCE
JET NEAR FRANKFURT ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO.

2. UNDER HEADING "TOURISTIC BOYCOTT OF SPAIN SOUGHT IN ENGLAND",
APRIL 20 "INFORMACIONES" RECOUNTS "DAILY TELEGRAPH" STORY ABOUT
APRIL 10 LUFTHANSA FLIGHT NEARLY COLLIDING WITH IBERIA PLANE ON
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BARCELONA RUNWAY. ORIGINAL ACCOUNT ALLEGEDLY CAME FROM SPANISH
AIR CONTROLLER IN BARCELONA WHO BLAMED "ANTIQUATE" EQUIPMENT FOR
LOSS OF COMMUNICATIONS WITH LUFTHANSA PLANE. NORMAN TEBBITT, IDENTI-
FIED AS OFFICIAL OF BRITISH CIVILIAN PILOTS ASSOCIATION, IS
QUOTED AS SAYING ON TELEVISION SHOW "TODAY" THAT SPANISH AIR-
PORTS "MOST DANGEROUS IN EUROPE" AND THAT PILOTS SHOULD REFUSE FLY
TO SPAIN UNTIL SITUATION CORRECTED. SPANISH TOURISM OFFICE DENIED

THAT INTENTIONAL CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY TO KEEP TOURISTS AWAY FROM SPAIN. HOWEVER, IT WAS NOTED THAT NUMBER OF BRITISH TOURISTS WAS DOWN ABOUT FOUR PER CENT IN APRIL FROM YEAR BEFORE.

3. SPANISH MINISTRY OF AIR ANNOUNCED THAT ALL REPORTED CASES ARE UNDER INVESTIGATION AND THAT TESTIMONY OF BRITISH OR OTHER AIR CREWS WOULD BE WELCOME. SOME ANNOUNCEMENT NOTED THAT NEWLY-INSTALLED FRENCH THOMPSON RADAR SYSTEM IS TO UNDERGO TESTS IN MAY AND, ASSUMING SUCCESS, WILL TAKE OVER FULL-TIME TRAFFIC CONTROL BETWEEN JUNE 1 AND JUNE 15.

4. COMMENT: REPORTS FROM US INDUSTRY REPS WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH STATUS OF THOMPSON SYSTEM IN BARCELONA ARE DOUBTFUL THAT ALL ELEMENTS WILL BE OPERATIONAL EVEN BY JUNE. FURTHER THEY AGREE WITH REPORTED COMMENT OF SPANISH CONTROLLER WHO LEAKED LUFTHANSA-IBERIAL NEAR-MISS THAT LACK OF TRAINING ON NEW EQUIPMENT WILL HAMPER SPANISH PERSONNEL EVEN WHEN SYSTEM FULLY FUNCTIONING. IN ANY CASE LATEST RASH OF PUBLICITY CERTAIN TO KEEP HEAT ON AIR MINISTRY

TO FIND SOLUTION TO PROBLEM WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN AWARE OF FOR SEVERAL YEARS. STABLER

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Format: TEL
From: MADRID
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